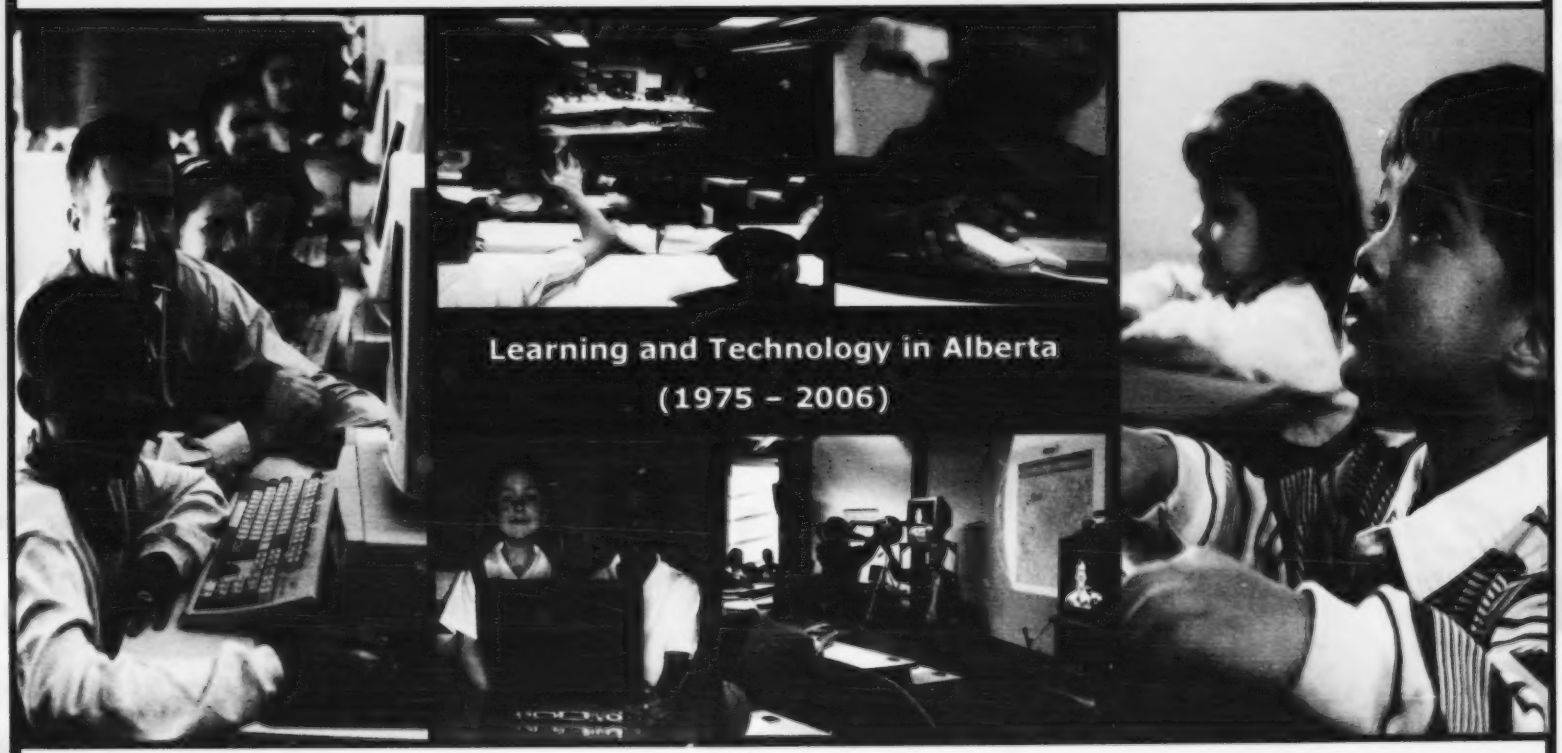

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Year	Initiative	Description	Status/Comments
1975			
	Computing Science is introduced as part of Business Education courses	Computers are described as objects and / or tools of business.	
1979			
	New Minister	Honourable David King appointed Minister of Education.	
1981			
	Calculators Policy integrates calculators into Math and Science curricula	The Guidelines for the Use of Calculators document (Grades 1-12) introduced them as "instructional and computational aids" that provided "new and meaningful alternatives and opportunities in the learning process."	
November	Minister's Task Force on Computers in Schools established	Honourable David King, then Minister of Alberta Education, first announced his intention to establish this Task Force in October 1981 during a speech delivered at the Annual Conference of the Alberta Society for Computers in Education. The main purpose of this group was to propose long range planning regarding the instructional and administrative uses of computers in Alberta schools. The Task Force consisted of 13 members drawn from the public and all major reference groups in education in Alberta at the time.	
	Alberta Education purchases 1,000 Bell and Howell OEM computers (also referred to as the "Black Apple") for resale to schools.	The Black Apple was distributed through the School Book Branch Warehouse. The original computer package included hardware, software, warranty and in-service packages, though many schools chose to purchase the different components separately. This provincial initiative helped to get microcomputers into schools and was seen as a positive step that met the increasing interest in computer use.	In the two year period from the spring of 1981 to the spring of 1983, the number of microcomputers used in schools increased 1254 percent: from 265 to 3535.
1983			
June	*Minister's Task Force on Computers in Schools* released	This report focused on the use of computers in Alberta's schools based on a survey conducted from 1981 to 1983. The purposes and characteristics of the education provided by Alberta's school system are briefly described, and ways that computers can serve education are outlined. Issues identified by the task force are then examined and 48 specific recommendations are offered that relate to students and curriculum. The report stated: "The question is not whether we can afford the effort and cost required to introduce computers in our schools. Rather, the question is whether we can afford NOT to do so."	Survey results revealed that 63.7 percent of participating schools had microcomputers. Of the 3535 microcomputers in schools, 2077 were Apple, 974 were Commodore, 181 were Radio Shack, and 303 were 'other'.
Fall	Elementary	The Elementary Computer Literacy program was introduced as a result of field testing in 42	

	Computer Literacy Curriculum introduced	official and over 300 unofficial pilot schools throughout the province from September 1982 to March 1983.	
1984			
September	Junior High Computer Literacy course introduced	The Junior High Computer Literacy program was developed as a basic introductory program in response to the need to provide junior high students with a general understanding of computers and their use. Field testing occurred during the 1982-83 school year.	
	Computer Literacy 10 course introduced as part of Business Education	The Computer Literacy 10 program was developed in response to needs expressed by educators in the field and resolutions passed by the Curriculum Policies Board in November 1980. It was also developed as a result of recommendations made in the report of the Minister's Task Force on Computers in Schools (released June 1983). Field testing first occurred during the 1982-83 school year. The Business Education curriculum was updated to emphasize high technology, with an emphasis in word processing skills and microcomputer use.	Together with the Elementary and Junior High Literacy courses, this course placed Alberta at the forefront of computer literacy curricular developments.
1985			
	New Minister	Honourable Neil Webber appointed Minister of Education.	
	Computer Processing 10-20-30 introduced as part of Business Education	Computer Processing 10-20-30 was introduced with the aim of "helping [to] prepare the student for the information age."	
1985-86			
	The Small Schools Action Research Project initiated using fax and computer technologies for distance learning delivery	The Small Schools Action Research Project was implemented to increase equity of access to program and course materials and to provide flexibility for rural Alberta students. Technology was explored to make improvements in the quality of course delivery and support service and to create more effective learning environments at the local level.	
1986			
	New Minister	Honourable Nancy J. Betkowski appointed Minister of Education.	
1987			
September	The Small Schools Project introduced CML/CAI for distance learning delivery	Based on Research Project findings, the Small Schools Project took place over three years, beginning in 1987, and was structured in phases. Small high schools were defined as those having fewer than 50 students enrolled in Grades 10 to 12. A number of selected school systems in one region of the province were invited to participate. Each school was equipped with teleconferencing convenors, satellite receiving dishes and a telefacsimile machine (fax) for electronic transmission of student work to and from tutors/markers.	
1988			

	New Minister	Honourable Jim Dinning appointed Minister of Education.	
1989			
	Alberta Special Education Network (ASPEN) formed	The Alberta Special Education Network (ASPEN) is a computer-based communications and information network geared to the teaching and learning of exceptional children in rural Alberta. ASPEN's features include toll-free telephone access, a menu-driven user interface, training and awareness, electronic mail, weekly news, forums and a reference library.	
1990			
	Junior High Computer Studies course replaced Junior High Computer Literacy course	The program was based on two beliefs: 1. Students needed to have minimum amount of knowledge about computers, particularly from the point of view of the computer as a productivity tool (learning with and through computers), and 2. Students who wished to pursue studies in this area should have the opportunity to do so (learning about computers).	
1992			
	New Minister	Honourable Halvar Jonson appointed Minister of Education.	
1993			
	SchoolNet partnership first introduced.	SchoolNet is a partnership with the provincial and territorial governments, the education community and the private sector, that promotes the effective use of information and communications technologies (ICT) in learning. SchoolNet connected 3,500 of Canada's elementary and secondary schools to the Internet during the 1993-94 pilot year. At the time, the Internet was described as a worldwide communications network extending to more than 70 countries through over 2 million computers, with a thousand being added to that number every day. Alberta Education had numerous links with Industry Canada's SchoolNet. Some of SchoolNet's initiatives in Alberta included the following: • GrassRoots, a program that provides funding to help teachers and students create Internet-based collaborative learning projects; • SATIR, a website designed to provide professional development for school-based administrators across Canada; • Computers for Schools, a program that distributes reconditioned surplus computers to schools and public libraries (see Alberta Computers for Schools section below); and • Network of Innovative Schools (NIS), a program aimed at establishing a network of schools across Canada, that demonstrate leadership in ICT implementation. NIS provides its members with up to $10,000 to support their work with ICT and their participation in research and mentoring activities during the school year. Some schools purchase laptops, computers, software, robotics equipment, digital video cameras or other new technologies to enhance students' learning experience.	SchoolNet aimed to connect all of Canada's 16,000 elementary schools, secondary schools, and libraries. This was accomplished on March 30, 1999. As of May 2000, there were close to half a million connected computers in Canadian schools. By the 2003-04 school year, 17 Alberta schools had been selected as NIS members. SchoolNet funding for NIS schools expired in March 2005.
1994			

	Alberta Computers for Schools formed	The Alberta Computers for Schools (CFS) Association is a non-profit organization that provides refurbished computers to schools, public libraries and non-profit learning organizations at little or no cost. *Note: The National CFS Program was launched in 1993.*	Since 1994, more than 70,000 computers have been channeled into Alberta schools, libraries and non-profit learning organizations.
March	MLA Team on Business Involvement and Technology Integration formed	In March of 1994, then Minister of Education, Honourable Halvar Jonson, established the MLA Team on Business Involvement and Technology Integration in Education to consult with Albertans and provide recommendations to government on how best to expand and enhance our use of technology in education. The Team formed an Advisory Committee comprised of experts in technology and education. This committee reviewed technology integration initiatives in Canada and in other countries, as well as information from briefs and presentations.	A number of the province's technology leaders contributed to the consultations as Advisory Committee members. Their work resulted in the MLA Framework Report for Technology Integration in Education.
1995			
July	Technology Integration in Education discussion paper released	In July 1995, by the government's MLA Implementation Team on Business Involvement and Technology Integration in Education released a Technology Integration in Education discussion paper. The discussion paper was based on preliminary consultation with members of the education community, business representatives, education associations and provincial departments and agencies. The vision, strategies and challenges identified by the MLA Team were then presented to Albertans for their feedback. The discussion paper included a questionnaire to encourage and focus information sharing. http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/news/1995nr/july95/TECH_PAPER_RELEASED.asp	
1996			
March	MLA Framework Report for Technology Integration in Education	In March 1996, then Minister of Education, Honourable Halvar Jonson, released the Framework for Technology Integration in Education, which has been the basis for further long-term planning for technology integration in education. http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/technology/nr/framework/ The MLA Implementation Team on Business Involvement and Technology Integration recommended that "government re-invest in education by committing funding for technology integration to improve teaching, learning and the future employability of Alberta students."	
	Network Access Grant (NAG)	The Network Access Grant provided $5 million or $2750 per learning site. This spurred development of jurisdiction wide area networks.	
May	New Minister	On May 31, 1996 (http://www.gov.ab.ca/acn/199605/3804.html), changes in cabinet responsibilities were announced. Honourable Gary Mar was appointed Minister of Education.	
November	Implementation Plan for Technology in Education	The Implementation Plan for Technology in Education was released in November 1996 by then Minister of Education, Honourable Gary Mar. The plan was developed based on two years of consultation with educators, technical experts, government committees and other Albertans and focused on the necessary areas of activity for technology integration in schools: computers,	

		infrastructure, teacher inservice, curriculum and resources and the Internet. http://www.gov.ab.ca/acn/199611/4396.html	
	School Technology Task Group formed (STTG)	Alberta Education's then Assistant Deputy Minister, Roger Palmer, created the School Technology Task Group (STTG) with a mandate to provide overall direction and co-ordination for provincial technology initiatives relating to the Framework for Technology Integration in Education. STTG was an important catalyst and link between stakeholders and the department.	
	TELUS World Learning Program	An initiative of the TELUS Bright Futures Foundation (a not-for-profit corporation providing financial support to educational initiatives), the TELUS World Learning project provided $8.5 million, over a two-year period, to assist Alberta schools in connecting to the Internet. One of the Foundation's primary roles was to fund programs that promote lifelong learning and the integration of technology into education.	
1997			
	Career Technology Studies (CTS) courses introduced	Career Technology Studies courses replaced Computer Literacy 10 and Computer Processing 10-20-30.	
January	Technology Integration Funding (TIF) initiated	From the 1996-97 school year up to and including the 2002-03 school year, government provided Technology Integration Funding (TIF) on an annual basis (approximately $20 million per year), for a total of $145 million. The purpose of TIF funding was to improve the level of equity and access to computer technology among schools. TIF was provided on a per funded student basis. As part of TIF, Alberta Education required that school jurisdictions submit a technology plan indicating how funds were spent.	As a funding category, TIF ended in 2003-04; however, the funds were re-allocated into the Renewed Funding Framework (RFF) in 2004-05. For further information on the RFF, see page 13.
March	Alberta Education Business Plan and School Board Plans	In its business plan for 1997-98 to 1999-00, Alberta Education identified the integration of technology in education as a new goal and as a key area for improving Alberta's education system. Technology integration also had to be addressed in school boards' three-year education plans for 1997-98 to 1999-00, and financial reporting on technology had to be included in school boards' annual education results reports.	
April	Microsoft Provincial Umbrella Agreement	Alberta Education signed an Agreement with Microsoft Canada to provide equitable pricing of Microsoft products for all Alberta schools for a two-year time period. This was the first agreement of its kind in Canada. http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/news/1997nr/april97/micro-nr.asp	
June	Claris Provincial Umbrella Agreement	Alberta Education signed a two-year license agreement with Claris Canada that provided equitable pricing of their products for all Alberta schools. This was the first agreement of its kind in Canada.	

		http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/news/1997nr/june97/nr-claris.asp	
	Teaching Quality Standard Announced	Then Minister of Education, Honourable Gary Mar, approved a Teaching Quality Standard applicable to the provision of basic education, which identified descriptors of teacher knowledge, skills and attributes (KSA), including KSAs related to technology. http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/news/1997nr/june97/nr-qtstand.asp	
	Other Software Agreements	Other software agreements were negotiated to reduce purchase price for Alberta schools with CCTPlus for Foolproof security software and with McAfee Canada for anti-virus software at substantial discounts.	
September	School Technology Advisory Committee formed (STAC)	The purpose of STAC is to provide a forum for K-12 stakeholders to provide pedagogical advice to Alberta Education about ministry technology initiatives and to raise issues related to technology implementation in the learning system.	
	Jurisdiction Technology Coordinators (JTCs) network established	Alberta Education began holding semi-annual meetings with JTCs to discuss topics of interest related to technology integration and communicated regularly by email to JTCs with updates between meetings held. A listserv was also established to enable JTCs and others to communicate with each other about technology planning.	
	Learner Outcomes in Technology Framework released	The Learner Outcomes in Technology framework released by Alberta Education answered the question of how technology will be used in Alberta schools. http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/news/1997nr/nov97/nr-techoutcomes.asp	
	TELUS Learning Connection launched (now called 2Learn.ca Education Society)	The TELUS Learning Connection (TLC) aims to keep Alberta teachers up to speed with information technology. The program provides in-service training for teachers to use the Internet as an educational resource. Current TLC partners include TELUS, Alberta Education, The Alberta Teachers' Association, the College of Alberta School Superintendents and the University of Alberta. http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/news/1997nr/may97/nr-technoTraining.asp	The 2Learn.ca Education Society, a not for profit society, administers the TELUS Learning Connection: an Educational Alliance (the "TLC") project. The TLC project is supported by the 2Learn.ca website, http://www.2Learn.ca
	Alberta Education Website	The Alberta Education website was launched and was described at the time as a site that provides a "publish once for many people" service, reducing printing costs and providing fast and easy access to departmental information.	
	Alberta Education Extranet	The Extranet was created to provide rapid and secure communications and information lookup with Alberta Education stakeholders. Applications introduced in 1997 provided increased accuracy and efficiency in student registrations.	
	Bulletin Board Service (BBS)	The Bulletin Board Service (BBS) was a form of information sharing prior to the widespread use of the Internet. It served as an electronic marks distribution system for achievement exams. The BBS could also be accessed through a 1-800 number.	
	Management Information	The Management Information Reporting Schedules (MIRS) was implemented. MIRS was used to electronically input data into an information management system in order to track specific	The last MIR Schedule was deactivated in 2001.

	Reporting Schedule	funding initiatives, including English as a Second Language, Special Needs, Technology Integration funding, Native Education projects, the Teacher Assistance program and the Early Literacy Initiative.	
1998			
January	*School (Computer Instruction) Amendment Act, 1998*	Judy Gordon, former MLA for Lacombe-Stettler, tabled Bill 213 in the Legislature that added ICT outcomes into Alberta's *School Act*. The bill passed, and was proclaimed on April 30, 1998. "Not only are computers changing how we approach reading, writing, and arithmetic, but they are becoming an essential element of study in their own right. Computer literacy is fast becoming the fourth R for our children, as important as reading, writing, and math."	
	Teaching and Learning with Technology (TLT) project initiated	Teaching and Learning with Technology was a project of the Regional Professional Development Consortia that provided: • Professional Development for Alberta educators, focused on the meaningful integration of technology into the Alberta curriculum; and • Considerations regarding and processes for addressing the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) outcomes.	
	Interim ICT Program of Studies and Supporting Resources	The interim ICT program of studies was released and schools had two years to prepare for provincial implementation. Illustrative examples were also released to assist those who were planning to implement the program of studies prior to the provincial implementation. The Alberta ICT program of studies emphasizes technology as a 'way of doing things' – the processes, tools and techniques that alter human activity. As a curriculum it specifies what students from Kindergarten to grade 12 are expected to know, be able to do, and be like with respect to technology.	
	Technology Planning Resource	A Technology Planning Resource was developed by Alberta Education to support school jurisdictions in developing and implementing their three-year plans.	
	Best Practice Studies in Technology Implementation	A series of 10 best practice studies was produced by various technology leaders on behalf of Alberta Education to support school jurisdictions in implementing technology effectively. Titles include: o *Computer Network Security* o *FOIPP and Technology* o *Implementing and Managing Website Development in Education* o *Managing Technology Funding* o *Network Design* o *On-line Learning* o *Preparing to Implement Learner Outcomes in Technology* o *Professional Development for Teaching Technology Across the Curriculum* o *Technical Support Planning* o *Technology Implementation Review: Grande Yellowhead Regional Division No. 35 (GYRD) and Wolf Creek Regional Division No. 32 (WCRD)*	

	The Access Fund initiated	The Access Fund supported expanded enrollment in post-secondary institutions in response to population and other demand pressures in priority areas, such as apprenticeship and information / communications technology.	
1999			
May	Ministry Convergence	On May 25, 1999, then Premier of Alberta, Honourable Ralph Klein, announced a "major reorganization of government to prepare Albertans for the 21st Century." Alberta Education became Alberta Learning, serving both the K-12 and post-secondary community. On May 26, 1999, Dr. Lyle Oberg was announced as the Minister of Alberta Learning. http://www.gov.ab.ca/acn/199905/7711.html	
	Information and Strategic Services (ISS) Division formed	The functions of this division included the development of policy positions, options and responses, coordinating international education, immigration and federal/provincial policy, conducting research, integrating policy direction across the Ministry, and providing leadership and support for the implementation of evolving technologies in the learning system in conjunction with stakeholders.	Later, Stakeholder Technology Branch would be part of this division.
August	School Boards Receive $4.2 million for Computer Networks through Innovation Fund	Honourable Lyle Oberg, then Minister of Learning, announced more than $4.2 million in funding Wide Area Networks for eight jurisdictions through the School Facilities Innovation Fund. Wide Area Networks allow schools to communicate with each other under one computer network, as well as increasing student access to programs. The Innovation Fund was established in 1998 based on recommendations put forward by the School Facilities Task Force. The Fund encourages school boards to develop creative, cost-effective school facilities and technology infrastructure to support student learning. http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/news/1999nr/Aug99/nr-computer.asp	
	Alberta Online Consortium (AOC) formed	The AOC was a member-driven organization that promoted the growth of technology enhanced learning environments and provided members and others with programs and services aimed at building their capacity and increasing the level of success experienced by their learners. The AOC believed that online education is a valuable education option and was dedicated to supporting online learning among Alberta's students.	AOC ceased functioning in 2006.
	Galileo Educational Network Association formed (GENA)	GENA was initiated with funding from Alberta Learning to provide teachers with new approaches to professional development and to build technology skills that could be used in the classroom. GENA was also created for the purpose of supporting teachers in implementing the new Information and Communication Technology program of study (introduced 2001). GENA offers a research-based, systematic approach to professional learning and development suited for practitioners who want to take an inquiry stance to their work. The Network represents a collaboration among K-12 and post-secondary educators, students of all ages, government and business to provide comprehensive training for teachers in technology. Additional financial support for the organization is provided by the private sector. http://www.gov.ab.ca/acn/199911/8388.html	
2000			
February	Request for Proposals -	On February 29, 2000, Alberta Innovation and Science released a Request for Proposals to industry to further the development and implementation of a high-speed telecommunications	

	SuperNet	network infrastructure in Alberta. Government's target is to have 100 percent access by schools to a reasonably priced high-speed Internet infrastructure by 2002-03.	
September	ICT Program of Studies provincially implemented	Implementation of the ICT Kindergarten to Grade 12 Program of Studies was phased in over three years and completed June 30, 2003. The outcomes in the ICT Program of Studies were not developed to stand alone, but to be infused into core programs of study. The ICT Program of Studies designates learning outcomes by division. School jurisdictions were given responsibility for determining the grade levels and subjects for integrating ICT learning outcomes.	
November	Announcement of Web Awareness Workshops	Alberta Learning worked with the Regional Professional Development Consortia to offer three workshops called "Kids for Sale", "Safe Passage" and "Fact or Folly". The workshops gave educators practical advice on issues like online marketing to children, avoiding offensive content on the Internet and verifying online information. Alberta Learning licensed the workshops from the Media Awareness Network (MNet), a national non-profit organization that hosts one of Canada's largest educational websites on media and Internet literacy. http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/news/2000/November/nr-Webworkshops.asp	Licensing for the MNet workshops expired in August 2003.
2001			
July 2001	SuperNet contract signed	The contract for Alberta SuperNet, with the aim to provide high-speed network connectivity to all learning institutions within three years, was signed on July 24, 2001.	
	tech.news launched	tech.news is STB's newsletter to stakeholders. It provides timely information about initiatives, highlights resources, and provides a means of communicating jurisdictional activities related to learning and technology.	tech.news is released on a monthly basis.
	LearnAlberta.ca launched	LearnAlberta.ca was launched to provide K-12 teachers and students in publicly funded schools access to a variety of learning resources that will enhance what students are learning in the classroom. The Online Reference Centre (http://www.learnalberta.ca/refcentre/), the first of the LearnAlberta.ca resources to come online, offered a variety of research materials including encyclopedias, literature, pictures, newspaper articles and more.	
	K-12 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) formed	The purpose of TAG is to provide a forum for K-12 stakeholders to provide technical advice to Alberta Education about ministry technology initiatives and to raise issues related to technology implementation in the learning system.	
2002			
April	ICT Program of Studies Transferred	Effective April 1, 2002, responsibility for the ICT Program of Studies was transferred from Stakeholder Technology (STTG) to Basic Learning. The Curriculum Branch and French Language Services Branch became responsibie for infusing ICT outcomes into the programs of study. The Learning and Teaching Resources Branch assumed responsibility for embedding ICT outcomes in implementation guides, where appropriate, and identifying ICT requirements in Calls for Resources and Calls for Proposals.	
	Learning and Technology Website launched	On April 25, 2002, Stakeholder Technology launched a new Learning and Technology website for stakeholders, www.lnt.ca. This site is targeted towards Alberta jurisdiction technology personnel and other members of the K-12 and post-secondary learning community who are interested in technology integration.	
	Technology	The Technology Standards and Solutions system-wide approach implements cost-effective	

	Standards and Solutions program introduced	delivery of technology solutions province-wide and establishes opportunities for technology solutions.	
Spring	Web Services Team Transferred	The Web Services team was transferred in Spring 2002 from Stakeholder Technology Branch, Information and Strategic Services Division, to the Information and Technology Management Sector, Information and Strategic Services Division. The Information and Technology Management Sector works closely with business units and leads development and implementation of the Ministry Information Management Strategic Plan, management of information systems and technology support systems and functions for the Ministry.	
May	e-Textbooks initiative begins	In May 2002, Alberta Learning initiated a project to convert two newly-authorized science textbooks to an online format. The initial launch of the resulting "e-textbooks" took place in September 2002. The newly authorized student basic learning resources for Grade 9 Science became available in electronic format on the LearnAlberta.ca website and are now accessible to Alberta students and school staff.	To gain an understanding of the effectiveness and usability of this new resource format, Alberta Learning contracted Academic Technologies for Learning (ATL) of the University of Alberta to conduct an evaluation of the e-Textbooks over two research phases in the 2002-03 school year. Phase 2 of the project was subsequently extended into the 2003-04 school year (September 2003 to January 2004). On further development of the e-textbooks, Phase 3 was initiated from February to June 2004.
September	Stakeholder Technology Branch formalized	Effective September 1, 2002, the Stakeholder Technology Task Group (STTG) was formalized as a branch of Alberta Learning, called the Stakeholder Technology Branch (STB). STB was part of the Information and Strategic Services Division.	STB became part of the Learning Supports Division after the Ministry of Education was reorganized in May 2006.
October	The first SuperNet segment went live.	On October 29, 2002 the first SuperNet segment went live, extending from Sylvan Lake to Rocky Mountain House. Testing had occurred in the spring of 2002.	
	Post-Secondary	The purpose of PSI TAG was to provide a forum for establishing more effective methods of	PSI TAG was phased out

	Institution Technology Advisory Group (PSI TAG) formed	communicating issues related to technology integration initiatives and to present concerns, recommendations and advice to Alberta Learning. Members included universities, colleges, technical institutes, representatives from post-secondary technology committees (ACET, ACTIC, Netera) and Alberta Learning.	with the split of ministries in 2004.
2003			
	Call for Proposals: Professional Development to Enhance Educator Skills in Technology Integration	Alberta Learning funded three proposals to develop resources and provide professional development initiatives in the following defined theme areas that were identified as priorities through stakeholder consultations: • Technology Leadership for School Administrators; • Technology Integration in Senior High School Contexts; and • Identification and Assessment of Key Technology Competencies.	
	SuperNet Access Funding	SuperNet Access Funding (SAF) provides for basic SuperNet high-speed network connectivity opportunities for school jurisdictions. When schools and central offices are connected to and using SuperNet, they received $503.50 per month for each site. Unlike Technology Integration Funding, SuperNet Access Funding continued as a specifically targeted source of funding under the Renewed Funding Framework.	
	Website for Technology Industry Launched	On February 6, 2003, ministry staff held an information session for the technology industry to provide information about strategic IT directions being undertaken on behalf of the learning system. A new section was added to the Alberta Learning Website at http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/technology/techindustry. The webpage includes news, upcoming events, and other information that may be of interest to information technology and multimedia contacts.	This webpage has since been phased out.
	Sun Ray Thin-client Computing Technology Study	Alberta Learning teamed up with Sun Microsystems and Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73 to pilot the effectiveness of Sun Ray thin client computing technology in Alberta schools. The two-phase pilot project connected the Sun Ray desktop systems to a central server to investigate the effectiveness of 'thin client' technology over the Alberta SuperNet.	
	Alberta's Commission on Learning	Alberta's Commission on Learning released a final report, *Every Child Learns; Every Child Succeeds*. The Commission was appointed by then minister, Honourable Lyle Oberg in June 2002 to undertake the first comprehensive review of Alberta's education system in 30 years. The nine-member panel, chaired by former teacher and Edmonton City Councillor Patricia Mackenzie, was asked to make recommendations on ensuring that Alberta has a sustainable education system that supports the lifelong learning needs of students and the societal and economic well-being of the province. There were eight recommendations related to technology in the report. http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/Commission/report.asp	
2004			
April	LearnAlberta.ca Content Delivery Device	In April 2004, Alberta Learning introduced the LearnAlberta.ca Content Delivery Device (CDD), which had been identified by stakeholders as a key priority for the Technology Standards and Solutions initiative. A pilot project took place to test CDDs in classroom environments followed by full implementation of the CDD in Alberta schools. The CDD is provided at no cost to every school that chooses to use the device. It contains a copy	1450 schools out of 1750 have CDDs.

		of all LearnAlberta.ca video streaming content and the software required to deliver the content to users. CDDs transfer information over a Content Delivery Network (CDN), a system of computers networked together across the Internet that cooperate to deliver content (especially large media content) to end users.	
	Provincial Microsoft Licensing	Alberta Education signed a three-year, province-wide agreement with Microsoft Canada Inc., as well as a follow-up agreement with the successful reseller—Acrodex Inc.—to make Microsoft Office software available across the K-12 and post-secondary learning systems at no cost to school boards or post-secondary institutions.	
	Learning and Technology Policy Framework Published	The *Learning and Technology Policy Framework* provides direction for the infusion of technology across Alberta's learning system. Developed with extensive stakeholder input, the Policy Framework will help ensure that technology integration effectively supports learning system objectives and benefits learners.	Please see page 16 for information about The Learning and Technology Framework Update.
	Alberta Initiative for School Improvement Technology Projects Research Review	The Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI) Technology Projects Research Review was conducted to provide information that would guide Alberta Learning and school jurisdictions in their future work regarding learning and technology initiatives in K-12 schools. The study aimed to enable jurisdictions to learn from key findings and apply effective practices when integrating the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) program. http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/k%5F12/special/aisi/	
	Call for Proposals: Collaborative Server-based Computing	Alberta Learning funded eight pilot projects to inform the technology research investigation into potential SuperNet server-based computing solutions for the learning system. The investigation helped identify technology standards and innovative practices that could potentially be implemented on a broad scale over SuperNet.	
	Call for Proposals: Research Related to Videoconferencing in the K-12 Environment	Alberta Education sought proposals to design and conduct a research plan to investigate effective uses of videoconferencing technology within a variety of K-12 learning and teaching scenarios. Athabasca University, in partnership with the University of Lethbridge and the Galileo Educational Network, was the successful applicant. The research team, led by Dr. Terry Anderson of Athabasca University, worked with Alberta Learning to develop and support a videoconferencing community of practice. The community of practice engages in and shares research to inform decisions about the use of videoconferencing to expand and enhance learning opportunities for a variety of learning system stakeholders. K-12 jurisdictions that participated the community of practice included: o Edmonton Public Schools No. 7; o Fort Vermilion School Division No. 52; o Grande Yellowhead Regional School Division No. 35 ; o Prairie Rose Regional Division No.8; and o Red Deer Catholic Regional Division No. 39. http://vcalberta.ca/community/Research_Summary_Report_word_version_final.pdf	
	Call for Proposals: Implementation of Videoconferencing	Alberta Education funded 21 strategic projects in response to a Call for Proposals for the implementation of videoconferencing programs to examine the use of videoconferencing to support second language instruction; increase access to programming in rural/remote communities; extend the reach of specialized educational services; enhance programs and	

	Programs to Support Student and Educator Learning	practicum experiences for pre-service teachers; and, facilitate sharing of content expertise.	
July	STB Emerging Technologies Program Established	On July 1, 2004, the Emerging Technologies Office was established to investigate the technical requirements and infrastructure required to support the implementation of new and emerging technologies during the rollout of the Alberta SuperNet.	
	STB Learning and Technology Research Program Established	On July 2, 2004, the Learning and Technology Research Office was established to lead the development and implementation of a research agenda that supports the goals of the Learning and Technology Policy Framework. The Office was also established to facilitate linkages and develop knowledge-sharing strategies to enable decisions for investments in technologies and related practices to be informed by research findings and evidence of best practice.	
	VCAlberta.ca launched	The website aims to provide a framework that allows the videoconferencing community in Alberta to improve the quality and experience of videoconferences. Users are encouraged to produce and submit their own content in the form of articles, FAQs, annotated links and features about new initiatives in the learning system.	
	SuperNet IT Training offered at NAIT	In collaboration with Alberta Learning and SuperNet stakeholders, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) launched a series (five) of SuperNet Technical Training courses for IT personnel responsible for designing, managing and installing service network connections to SuperNet.	
September	Renewed Funding Framework	In September 2004, Alberta Education introduced an innovative funding framework that gives school boards the flexibility and freedom to meet the unique needs of their students and communities. The Renewed Funding Framework (RFF) provides core funding based on student enrollment and additional funding to meet the needs of specific student groups and certain geographic or population challenges. It is based on three pillars - Funding, Flexibility, and Accountability. As TIF funding was rolled into funding provided to jurisdictions under the RFF, school jurisdictions were no longer required to submit technology plans indicating how funds were spent.	
November	Ministry Re-organization	On November 24, 2004, Premier Ralph Klein announced changes to the structure of government. The former Ministry of Learning was split into Education (for K-12) and Advanced Education (for post-secondary). Honourable Gene Zwozdesky was announced as the Minister of Education and Keray Henke as the Deputy Minister. STB remained a part of the Information and Strategic Services Division in Alberta Education.	
2005			
	Learning and Technology Integration: Supporting Collaboration and	Alberta Education funded five projects to support the integration of technology in Alberta's Teacher Preparation Programs by: • Enhancing programs and practicum experiences for pre-service teachers; • Extending the connections and collaborative opportunities between faculty, pre-service and in-service teachers through a supportive professional learning culture; and	

	Modelling Effective Practice	• Evaluating and sharing effective models or strategies for preparing pre-service K-12 teachers to integrate technology effectively.	
	Videoconferencing Capacity Initiative	Alberta Education announced its investment in a new initiative to establish and implement videoconferencing technology across the province's K-12 education system. The ministry committed to spending approximately $4 million towards developing videoconferencing capacity, with each school jurisdiction receiving $60,000 in funding this school year to establish a minimum of two videoconferencing locations or expand their current videoconferencing activities. An additional $2 million was directed towards applied research projects at the jurisdiction level to support effective integration of videoconferencing in the education system. Alberta invests $6 million in province-wide videoconferencing initiative	
	Government of Alberta announces the completion of the Alberta SuperNet.	SuperNet is established in 1600 K-12 schools in 429 communities across the province. Through Internet service providers, SuperNet has the capacity to bring high-speed access to over 86 percent of Alberta's population, making SuperNet a key factor in rural Alberta's social and economic development.	
	Call for Proposals: Implementation of Videoconferencing Programs to Support Student and Educator Learning (Phase II Extension)	Alberta Education funded 15 strategic projects to pilot broadband videoconferencing initiatives that would examine the use of videoconferencing to: • Explore blended learning environments; • Support professional learning communities; and • Connect classrooms for enhanced learning.	
	Call for Proposals: - Emerging Technologies in the 21st Century	Alberta Education funded 16 projects to pilot broadband emerging technologies that support the delivery and enhancement of teaching, learning and administrative systems, including support technologies and general networking infrastructure in the following areas: 1. Wireless Local Area Networks (WLAN) and mobile computing devices; 2. Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP); 3. Web-based Collaboration Tools, Administrative and Application Infrastructure; and 4. Enhancing the skills and competencies of school and jurisdiction administrators to provide leadership in technology integration in 21st century schools.	
	Government of Alberta Internet Protocol (IP) videoconferencing core infrastructure	Government of Alberta announced the distribution of over $15 million in funding to 17 different projects, including a collaborative Government of Alberta Internet Protocol (IP) videoconferencing core infrastructure initiative on the SuperNet. Alberta Education, Alberta Health and Wellness, and Alberta Restructuring and Government Efficiency will produce a provincial plan for a scalable, shared, IP videoconferencing infrastructure in the education and health systems, and for Government of Alberta ministries.	
	Provincial Approach to Student Information (PASI)	K-12 stakeholders have indicated that, given the increasing importance of quality information, there is a need for a common direction for dealing with student data in the province. The PASI initiative is exploring a provincial approach to student information with the goal of providing tangible benefits to the education system (K-12 school jurisdictions, Alberta Education, parents and students).	

		The PASI project will address issues associated with provincial student information systems through the following: ○ Work with internal and external stakeholders through established committees (the PASI Advisory Committee and the PASI Stakeholder Working Group) to identify, prioritize and evaluate current and emerging information requirements; ○ Identify potential components or early opportunities that will align with and help inform a sustainable long-term provincial approach; and, ○ Enable jurisdictions and Alberta Education to move towards a common, interoperable methodology consistent with a provincial approach.	
2006			
April	First Education Standing Offers (ESOs) established	Alberta Education, in consultation with stakeholders, established a series of Education Standing Offers for technology products. The first products made available were Videoconferencing Endpoint equipment and Text-to-Speech Scan and Read software. ESOs enable jurisdictions to acquire selected technology products from a centralized product catalogue at educational pricing levels that would not be available using independent purchasing arrangements. Alberta Education's Learning Resources Centre (LRC) hosts a secure, online, searchable Technology Product Catalogue which jurisdictions can access to obtain product, pricing and vendor information for ESO products.	
May	Alberta's Videoconferencing Regional Leads Network launched	The Alberta Videoconference Regional Leads Network is sponsored by Alberta Education and administered by the 2Learn.ca Education Society. Over the next two school years (2006-07, 2007-08), the Regional Leads Network will work on building capacity for school jurisdictions to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by SuperNet and videoconferencing.	The 2Learn.ca Education Society was the successful applicant in response to a Call for Expressions of Interest for the administration of a Regional Leads Network. The Call was issued by Alberta Education on December 22, 2005.
	Re-organization of Alberta Education	On May 23, 2006, Alberta Education's Deputy Minister, Keray Henke, announced a reorganization of Alberta Education's internal structure. STB moved from the Information and Strategic Services Division to the Learning Supports Division. The Division provides support services for program implementation to support students in the K-12 education system and is focused on capacity building within the learning system to support student needs.	
	Video Edge Devices	Staff from Alberta Education announced that they would be working with school jurisdiction IT contacts to deploy a Video Edge Device (VED) solution that provides efficient and secured videoconferencing communications over SuperNet. A minimum of one VED will be provided at no cost to publicly funded school jurisdictions. This project will create a centralized videoconference network which utilizes the Alberta SuperNet and will also provide a cost effective method for bridging to other videoconference locations not connected to Alberta SuperNet.	Distribution of VEDs to all jurisdictions is near completion as of January 2007.
July	Alberta at the Smithsonian	Alberta was one of three features at the 40th Annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival, June 30-July 4 a July 7-11, 2006, in Washington, D.C. At the festival, Alberta Education connected participants wit	

	Folklife Festival	real time interaction, via videoconferencing, to Alberta youth from all areas of the province throug a series of 10 live, interactive videoconferencing sessions with Alberta schools. The sessions demonstrated how the SuperNet is being used in the province for innovative educational projects and programming (http://discuss.learning.gov.ab.ca/blogs/smithsonian/).	
September	Call for Proposals: One-to-One Mobile Computing	Alberta Education sought proposals from Alberta school jurisdictions interested in research-based one-to-one mobile computing initiatives that support specific educational goals within Grades 4 to 12. Proposals were required to address one of the following themes: 1.1 Enhancing teaching and learning for specific student populations; or 1.2 Improving student learning in targeted areas.	
October	Premier's Award of Excellence	On October 3, 2006, a project team from Stakeholder Technology Branch was presented with a Premier's Award of Excellence. The "Videoconferencing Implementation in Kindergarten to Grade 12 Schools" project team received a Bronze award for groundbreaking work that has helped to establish the use of videoconferencing in schools throughout the province. Since 1995, the Premier has presented awards annually to teams to promote and recognize superior client service and business practices in the Alberta public service. The award serves as a standard of achievement, and a guide to business excellence practices.	
	Alberta Technology Leaders in Education (ATLE) formed	The Alberta Technology Leaders in Education association aims to support the work of K-12 jurisdiction technology leaders in Alberta. The first ATLE conference was held in Red Deer, Alberta on October 2006 and centered around three conceptual pillars (domains) identified in a paper funded by Alberta Education (www.pallisersd.ab.ca/u/mhollingsworth/itl/itleadership.htm).	
November	Learning and Technology Policy Framework Status Report	The status report serves as an update providing: • A description of the impact on the Learning and Technology Policy Framework resulting from the changed environment from the division of Alberta Learning to the Ministries of Alberta Education and Alberta Advanced Education; • The status of implementation of Ministry-led initiatives respecting the various Potential New Actions identified within the Framework; and • Identification and status of implementation of Ministry-led technology initiatives that were not identified as Potential New Actions in the Framework.	
	Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Space Agency	Alberta Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Canadian Space Agency (CSA). The MOU will provide a framework for a variety of science and technology research, teaching and learning activities for K-12 students and for pre-service teachers. The MOU includes the following two components: CSA Telelearning Evaluation Project for K-12 schools and Pre-Service Videoconferencing Series. http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/news/2006/November/nr-stellareducation.asp	This is a three-year initiative, from 2006-2010.
	e-Learning Strategy	Alberta Education began development of an e-Learning strategy to inform the Ministry and stakeholders in their collaboration towards an Alberta approach to e-learning.	Stakeholder input is being gathered to determine next steps in the development of an Alberta e-learning

			strategy.
December	New Premier	Premier Ed Stelmach was sworn in as Alberta's thirteenth premier on December 14, 2006. On December 15, 2006, Honourable Ron Liepert was announced as the new Minister of Education, with Deputy Minister Keray Henke continuing in his position.	